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ROSTERS OF EXPERTS NOMINATED BY PARTIES

Note by the secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. At its seventh session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) concluded that, until then, there had not been sufficient experience to fully evaluate the utility of the roster of experts or its use by the secretariat. It requested the secretariat to continue to use the roster when providing the SBSTA with advice on technologies and methodologies, and to prepare a further evaluation of the roster for submission to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fifth session (FCCC/SBSTA/1997/14, para. 31 (g)).

2. Also at its seventh session, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to report annually on: (a) the application of the criteria adopted to select the experts; (b) the regional participation of experts by task, with a breakdown of participation by country; and (c) regional participation and promotion of capacity-building.

3. At its eighth session, the SBSTA noted that the roster should be continually updated based on Parties' nominations and as new needs arose and that the roster should be reviewed at regular intervals, at least every five years. It noted with appreciation the proposal of the secretariat to publish the roster on its web site. It requested that provision should be made to also accept nominations and related data electronically (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/6, para. 66).

B. Scope of the note

4. This note responds to the above mandate by providing information on the use of all the rosters of experts maintained by the secretariat. There are three such rosters related to in-depth reviews of national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, technology and technology transfer, and methodologies. The original mandates for these rosters are all different. The COP, by its decision 2/CP.1 on the review of first communications from the Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, invited Parties to contribute to the review process by nominating experts to participate in review teams and to otherwise assist the secretariat (FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1). By its decision 7/CP.2, the COP requested the SBSTA to evaluate a roster of experts on technology and technology transfer (FCCC/CP/1996/15/Add.1). At its fourth session, and as subsequently reconfirmed at its seventh session, the SBSTA agreed to include experts in the field of methodologies in a roster (FCCC/SBSTA/1997/14, para. 31 (b)).

5. More recently, at its tenth session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), having considered the conclusions of the SBSTA on the technical review process for greenhouse gas inventories of Annex I Parties, requested the secretariat to prepare draft guidelines for technical reviews and to include in the related draft work plan different approaches for individual reviews, including sending inventory material to experts, expert meetings in a single location and in-country visits of experts, or combinations of each, in order to assess these approaches. Moreover, the relevant draft decision annexed to the report of the SBI on its tenth session contains a paragraph whereby the COP would invite Parties to nominate inventory experts with

expertise in relevant sectors by 15 April 2000 (FCCC/SBI/1999/8). Information on draft guidelines for a technical review process for greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories is contained in document FCCC/SBI/1999/13.

C. Possible action by the SBSTA

6. The SBSTA may wish to consider the information in this note and provide guidance to the secretariat on the future evolution of the rosters of experts, particularly on matters related to integration, improving the completeness of information and confidentiality, the use of the methodology roster for technical reviews of greenhouse gas inventories from Annex I Parties, and a process for increasing the number of fields of expertise for possible future activities.

II. BACKGROUND

7. Information on the structure of the rosters on methodologies and on technology and technology transfer, including the complete set of fields of expertise, may be found in document FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.4. It also contains information on how Parties may nominate experts to these rosters, including the nomination forms. This information is also available on the secretariat's web site. A consolidated list of major fields of expertise, as synthesized from the more extensive list in document FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.4, is contained in the annex to the present document.

8. A listing of the areas of expertise related to in-depth reviews, but at a higher level of aggregation, is given in document FCCC/SBI/1997/CRP.7. These include: general climate change response policy, greenhouse gas inventories, projections of GHG emissions and removals, analysis of policies and measures, finance and technology transfer, and other. Information on the procedure for nominating experts, including a nomination form, for participation in in-depth reviews was also provided in that document.

9. The nominees to the methodology and technology and technology transfer rosters may be found on the secretariat's web site. The list contains the names of the nominating Party and of the nominee. Additional information is available from the secretariat upon request.[1]

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[1] Parties may wish to check this list to verify that their nominees are in the secretariat's database. Also, see paragraphs 23-24 below on the subject of confidentiality issues related to publishing the roster on the secretariat's web site.

III. EXPERIENCE IN USING THE ROSTERS

General experience

10. The secretariat was requested to report on the three items identified in paragraph 2 above. Regarding the criteria to select experts, the secretariat uses two main criteria, namely technical competence and regional balance. In applying these criteria, consideration is given to the nature of the task and its relevance to groups of Parties. For example, a workshop on Annex I guidelines had a higher level of participation from Annex I experts, while workshops on emission factors in non-Annex I Parties have had a higher participation of non-Annex I experts. However, experts from both Annex I and non-Annex I Parties are generally invited to participate in all tasks. In applying this criterion, the secretariat does not aim to achieve regional balance for each task, but rather across all tasks. Also, the nature of the task influences the technical skill needed for the activity.

11. In a few instances, a larger number of experts from a particular region was warranted. In one such case, that is a meeting of experts on coastal zone technologies, slightly more weight was given to participation by experts from countries of the Alliance of Small Island States. In organizing workshops on regional emission factors, a larger number of participants from the relevant regions have been invited. A breakdown of participants into Annex I and non-Annex I Parties is provided below for various tasks. The names of experts and countries are provided in the documents for each task, as cross referenced below.

12. The involvement of experts nominated by Parties to the rosters, in activities related to the Convention process can be a means of building the capacity of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. The detailed data, provided below, indicate that a total of 121 experts from Annex I Parties and 154 experts from non-Annex I Parties have participated in various activities. This level of involvement of non-Annex I Parties would appear to be making a contribution to capacity-building. The secretariat, however, has no means of measuring the extent to which capacity-building occurs.

Specific experience

13. The secretariat has used the in-depth review roster to identify experts to participate in reviews of national communications from Annex I Parties. Ninety Parties (56 non-Annex I, 22 Annex II, and 12 economies in transition) have nominated 366 experts (203 non-Annex I, 100 Annex II and 63 economies in transition) to participate in these reviews. Information on the use of the in-depth review roster may be found in document FCCC/SBI/1999/INF.12.

14. The secretariat has used the rosters on technology and technology transfer and methodologies to guide its activities related to adaptation technologies, to technically review documents in the draft stage, and to identify participants for workshops requested by the subsidiary bodies. These rosters have also been used occasionally to identify possible experts for in-depth reviews.

15. The roster of experts on methodologies contains 462 nominees from Parties, of whom 267 are from non-Annex I Parties and 195 are from Annex I Parties). The number of nominees having experience in each major field is shown in the annex to this document.

16. The roster on methodologies was used to identify participants for three workshops. For example, a workshop was held in Bonn from 9 to 11 December 1998 to consider methodological issues identified by Parties and by the secretariat while processing GHG inventories included in second national communications of Annex I Parties. In total, 79 experts attended the workshop, including six from four relevant intergovernmental organizations. Seventy-three participants were nominated by their respective governments as methodological experts to the roster. Forty-nine experts came from Annex I Parties and 24 from non-Annex I Parties. Two additional experts from non Annex I Parties were invited, but were not able to attend (FCCC/SBSTA/1999/INF.1).

17. The roster of experts on methodologies was also used to identify experts for workshops on emission factors and activity data relating to non-Annex I Parties. One workshop was organized by the UNFCCC secretariat "back to back" with a meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on national feedback on the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in Havana, Cuba, from 16 to 18 September 1998. A total of 76 experts participated (53 from non-Annex I Parties, 12 from Annex I Parties and the remainder from international organizations and bodies) (FCCC/CP/1998/CRP.1). Also, the roster of experts was used to identify experts for a workshop on emission factors and activity data organized by the secretariat in Accra, Ghana, from 4 to 6 August 1999. Fifty experts participated (43 from 26 non-Annex I Parties and the remainder from international organizations and bodies (FCCC/SBI/1999/INF.6). Four additional experts from non-Annex I Parties were invited, but were not able to attend.

18. In addition, the roster has been used to identify consultants to assist the secretariat with the preparation and review of draft papers. Four experts from the roster were hired as consultants. An example of one such task was the preparation and review of the common reporting format.[2]

19. The roster of experts on technology and technology transfer contains 315 nominees, of whom 130 are from non-Annex I Parties and 185 from Annex I Parties.[3] The number of nominees having experience in each major field is given in the annex below.

20. The technology and technology transfer roster was used by the secretariat to identify participants for three expert meetings relating to the terms of transfer of technology, international technology information centres and networks and coastal zone technologies. A total of 26

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[2] The common reporting format is an annex to the draft UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Annex I Parties (FCCC/SBSTA/1999/6/Add.1).

[3] The secretariat does not have a complete curriculum vitae for all nominees.

experts participated in these meetings (8 Annex I, 14 non-Annex I and 4 international organizations); details may be found in documents FCCC/SB/1997/4 and FCCC/TP/1999/1. In addition the secretariat has used the roster to identify three technical experts from non-Annex I Parties to contribute to a technical paper on barriers and opportunities related to the transfer of technology (FCCC/TP/1998/1) and 10 experts (5 Annex I and 5 non-Annex I) to review drafts of the same paper.

IV. OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Integration of the rosters

21. Parties sometimes nominate experts for the technology and technology transfer and methodology rosters and expect the nominee to be placed also on the in-depth review roster or vice versa. While the fields of expertise are similar (see annex and paragraph 8 above), the secretariat has maintained separate rosters because the rosters were established on the basis of different decisions and for different purposes.

22. One option Parties may wish to consider is to integrate the three rosters into a unified UNFCCC roster, while maintaining the different fields of expertise as identified in document FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.4. A comprehensive list would have the advantage of enabling a nominee to be used for multiple assignments and would reduce the cost of maintaining multiple databases.[4] Also, if Parties agree, the methodology roster could serve the needs of the GHG inventory review process identified in the conclusions of the SBI at its tenth session (FCCC/SBI/1999/8), as the fields of expertise relating to inventories appear to be sufficiently comprehensive. This would eliminate the need to establish a separate roster for the review process.[5]

Ensuring confidentiality

23. For reasons of confidentiality, the secretariat has chosen to publish only the name of the nominee and the nominating Party on its web site. Nominees may have provided private telephone numbers and other data which they may not have expected to be published, especially on the web. Publishing complete information would, however, also allow other organizations seeking experts to contact them more easily.

24. There are several options that could be considered: (1) all the information on the application form could be made available; (2) a limited set of information, but more than just the

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[4] These rosters could be integrated taking into account the schedule for in-depth reviews of national communications from Annex I Parties.

[5] However the roster is constructed, the COP could invite Parties to nominate additional inventory experts to a roster, as described in the draft decision contained in the report of the SBI at its tenth session (FCCC/SBI/1999/8, annex I).

names, could be made available; in this case, Parties may wish to consider what information should be disclosed; and (3) all the information could be made available, but access could be restricted (see also paragraph 29 below). If options 1 or 2 are preferred, the secretariat may need to seek permission to publish the information from each nominee.

Expanding the fields of expertise

25. The original rosters were established to respond to requests from the COP and the subsidiary bodies. The comprehensive nature of the rosters has usually enabled the secretariat to identify experts needed to respond to activities identified by the subsidiary bodies. When this has not been the case, it has generally not been because the fields of expertise are not represented. Nevertheless, the current fields of expertise may not be sufficient to meet the possible future needs of the subsidiary bodies. For example, the roster contains few experts on policy instruments such as the clean development mechanism or emissions trading.

26. One option Parties may wish to consider is to review the fields of expertise identified in FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.4 and to suggest additional fields. This would lead to a roster with a list of experts having a broader range of experience for possible future tasks. Alternatively, Parties may wish to wait for specific tasks to be identified or to solicit such expertise in an ad hoc manner.

Improving information about nominees

27. Some nominations are not accompanied by a curriculum vitae and others contain incomplete application forms. Sometimes information on how to contact the individual (phone/fax numbers) is out of date. In the latter case, the secretariat is unable to follow the matter up and obtain proper information and it is therefore difficult to consider the applicant for particular activities.

28. The information and application forms available on the secretariat web site should make it easier for Parties to submit complete information on each new nominee. Parties, however, will need to submit nominations either electronically or by fax to the secretariat.

29. It would also be possible for outdated information and incomplete applications to be corrected directly on the web site of the secretariat by Parties having access to the Internet. The secretariat could provide an electronic password to national focal points who could directly update information on their nominees only. Parties without Internet access would need to update information by fax to the secretariat.

Annex

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF MAJOR FIELDS OF EXPERTISE AND NUMBER OF EXPERTS IN THE ROSTER FOR EACH FIELD

A. Technologies and practices to adapt to climate change

(i) General expertise

A10	Geography and planning	18
A20	Natural resources management	45
A30	Environmental economics	43

(ii) Specific area of expertise

A40	Coastal zone management	12
A50	River base management	8
A60	Forestry	18
A70	Agriculture and fisheries	17
A80	Land degradation	5
A90	Health science	4
A100	Human infrastructure	8

B. Terms of transfer of technology and know-how

B10	Economic disciplines	44
B20	Economic and impact sectors	115
B30	Economic institutions	58
B40	Economic instruments	13

C. Transfer of technologies between Annex II Parties and other Parties (mitigation)

(i) General expertise

C10	Planning and management	44

(ii) Specific area of expertise

C20	Fossil fuels	20
C30	Renewable energy technologies	23
C40	Energy transfer technologies	7
C50	Building technologies and appliances	9
C60	Transportation technologies	6
C70	Nuclear technologies	5
C80	Industrial technologies and processes	11
C90	Agriculture and forestry	4
C100	Waste treatment	6

D. Methods for greenhouse gas emission inventories

(i) General expertise

D10	Greenhouse gas emission inventories methodologies	128

(ii) Specific area of expertise

D20	Greenhouse gases	70
D30	Fuel combustion	61
D40	Fugitive emissions from fuels	14
D50	Industry	22
D60	Agriculture	30
D70	Land-use change and forestry	53
D80	Waste	25
D90	Solvent and other product use	9

E. Methods for developing projections of GHG emissions from sources and sequestration by sinks and estimating effects of measures

(i) General expertise

E10	Models and other approaches	54
E20	Programme/project evaluation methods	22
E30	Policies and measures	40

(ii) Specific area of expertise

E40	Energy-related emissions	60
E50	Non-energy-related sectors	13

F. Methods for assessing adaptation strategies and technologies

(i) General expertise

F10	Agricultural sciences	27

(ii) Specific area of expertise

F20	Agriculture and rangelands	31
F30	Other natural ecosystems	12

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